



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

**HB0684**

Introduced 2/6/2009, by Rep. William D. Burns

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/Art. 27B heading new  
105 ILCS 5/27B-5 new  
105 ILCS 5/27B-10 new  
105 ILCS 5/27B-15 new  
105 ILCS 5/27B-20 new  
105 ILCS 5/27B-25 new

Amends the School Code. Subject to an appropriation or the availability of funding for such purposes, requires the State Board of Education to make grants available to fund community schools (which are traditional schools that actively partner with their community to leverage existing resources and identify new resources to support the transformation of the school to provide enrichment and additional life skill opportunities for students, parents, and community members at-large) and to enhance programs at community schools. Requires a request-for-proposal process to be used in awarding grants. Provides that proposals may be submitted on behalf of a school, a school district, or a consortium of 2 or more schools or school districts. Requires a school to have certain components in order to qualify for a grant. Requires the State Superintendent of Education to appoint a 9-member Advisory Council on Community Schools. Effective immediately.

LRB096 07453 NHT 17545 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Article 27B  
5 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/Art. 27B heading new)

7 ARTICLE 27B. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

8 (105 ILCS 5/27B-5 new)

9 Sec. 27B-5. Applicability. This Article applies beginning  
10 with the 2009-2010 school year.

11 (105 ILCS 5/27B-10 new)

12 Sec. 27B-10. Legislative findings. The General Assembly  
13 finds all of the following:

14 (1) All children are capable of success.

15 (2) Schools are the centers of vibrant communities.

16 (3) Strong families build strong educational  
17 communities.

18 (4) Children succeed when adults work together to  
19 foster positive educational outcomes.

20 (5) Schools work best when families take active roles  
21 in the education of children.

1           (6) Schools today are limited in their ability to  
2           dedicate time and resources to provide a wide range of  
3           educational opportunities to students because of the focus  
4           on standardized test outcomes.

5           (7) By providing learning opportunities outside of  
6           normal school hours, including programs on life skills and  
7           health, students are more successful academically, more  
8           engaged in their communities, safer, and better prepared to  
9           make a successful transition from school to adulthood.

10           (8) A community school is a traditional school that  
11           actively partners with its community to leverage existing  
12           resources and identify new resources to support the  
13           transformation of the school to provide enrichment and  
14           additional life skill opportunities for students, parents,  
15           and community members at-large. Each community school is  
16           unique because its programming is designed by and for the  
17           school staff, in partnership with parents, community  
18           stakeholders, and students.

19           (9) Community schools currently exist in this State in  
20           urban, rural, and suburban communities.

21           (10) Research shows that community schools have a  
22           powerful positive impact on students, as demonstrated by  
23           increased academic success, a positive change in attitudes  
24           toward school and learning, and decreased behavioral  
25           problems.

26           (11) After-school and evening programs offered by

1 community schools provide academic enrichment consistent  
2 with the Illinois Learning Standards and general school  
3 curriculum; an opportunity for physical fitness activities  
4 for students, fine arts programs, structured learning  
5 "play" time, and other recreational opportunities; a safe  
6 haven for students; and work supports for working families.

7 (12) Community schools are cost-effective because they  
8 leverage existing resources provided by local, State,  
9 federal, and private sources and bring programs to the  
10 schools, where the students are already congregated.  
11 Community schools have been shown to leverage between \$5 to  
12 \$8 in existing programming for every \$1 spent on a  
13 community school.

14 (105 ILCS 5/27B-15 new)

15 Sec. 27B-15. Grants for Community Schools. Subject to an  
16 appropriation or the availability of funding for such purposes,  
17 the State Board of Education shall make grants available to  
18 fund community schools and to enhance programs at community  
19 schools. A request-for-proposal process must be used in  
20 awarding grants under this Section. Proposals may be submitted  
21 on behalf of a school, a school district, or a consortium of 2  
22 or more schools or school districts. Proposals must be  
23 evaluated and scored on the basis of criteria consistent with  
24 this Article and other factors developed and adopted by the  
25 Advisory Council on Community Schools established under this

1 Article. Technical assistance in grant writing must be made  
2 available to schools, school districts, or consortia of school  
3 districts through the State Board of Education directly or  
4 through a resource and referral directory established and  
5 maintained by the State Board of Education.

6 (105 ILCS 5/27B-20 new)

7 Sec. 27B-20. Criteria for grants to community schools. In  
8 order to qualify for a community school grant under this  
9 Article, a school must, at a minimum, have the following  
10 components:

11 (1) Before and after-school programming each school  
12 day to meet the identified needs of students.

13 (2) Weekend programming.

14 (3) At least 4 weeks of summer programming.

15 (4) A local advisory group comprised of school  
16 leadership, parents, and community stakeholders that  
17 establishes school-specific programming goals, assesses  
18 program needs, and oversees the process of implementing  
19 expanded programming.

20 (5) A program director or resource coordinator who is  
21 responsible for establishing a local advisory group,  
22 assessing the needs of students and community members,  
23 identifying programs to meet those needs, developing the  
24 before and after-school, weekend, and summer programming  
25 and overseeing the implementation of programming to ensure

1 high quality, efficiency, and robust participation.

2 (6) Programming that includes academic excellence  
3 aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, life skills,  
4 healthy minds and bodies, parental support, and community  
5 engagement and that promotes staying in school and  
6 non-violent behavior and non-violent conflict resolution.

7 (7) Maintenance of attendance records in all  
8 programming components.

9 (8) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual  
10 participation and the impact of programming on the  
11 participating children and adults.

12 (9) Documentation of true collaboration between the  
13 school and community stakeholders, including local  
14 governmental units, civic organizations, families,  
15 businesses, and social service providers.

16 (10) A non-discrimination policy ensuring that the  
17 community school does not condition participation upon  
18 race, ethnic origin, religion, sex, or disability.

19 (105 ILCS 5/27B-25 new)

20 Sec. 27B-25. Advisory council. Within 90 days after the  
21 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General  
22 Assembly, the State Superintendent of Education shall appoint a  
23 9-member Advisory Council on Community Schools. The Advisory  
24 Council shall advise the State Superintendent and the State  
25 Board of Education regarding policies and best practices for

1 community schools, criteria for funding community schools, and  
2 strategies to bring federal funding to this State for community  
3 schools. The membership of the Advisory Council shall include  
4 persons involved in community school leadership, at least one  
5 representative of a statewide association that advocates for  
6 community schools, parents involved in community schools, and  
7 other community stakeholders.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
9 becoming law.